

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-01 AID-20 EB-11 A-01 DRC-01 RSC-01

/050 W

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R 291250Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3979

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CB

SUBJECT: EMBASSY FURTHER REDUCES ITS CONSUMPTION OF FUEL

1. IN VIEW OF THE PROSPECT OF EVER SHORTER SUPPLIES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, THE EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 21 INSTALLED A STRICTER SYSTEM OF RATIONING THEIR USE.
2. FOR OFFICIAL VEHICLES A COUPON ARRANGEMENT WAS PUT INTO EFFECT WHICH WILL CAUSE AN IMMEDIATE CUT-BACK OF 7 PERCENT BASED ON OCTOBER CONSUMPTION OF GASOLINE IN THESE VEHICLES.
3. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ONLY ONE TANKFUL OF GASOLINE WILL BE SOLD FROM EMBASSY PUMPS TO THE OWNERS OF PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES, AND ONLY ON THE FIRST WORKING DAY OF EACH MONTH. THE GASOLINE MUST BE PUT INTO THE AUTOMOBILE TANK.
4. FOR THE PRESENT WE ARE CONTINUING TO ALLOW AN ISSUE OF GASOLINE FOR USE IN EMERGENCY GENERATORS AT US EMPLOYEE LIVING QUARTERS NOT TO EXCEED 30 LITERS OF GASOLINE WERE ISSUED FOR USE IN GENERATORS IN OCTOBER AS COMPARED WITH

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31,386 LITERS IN MARCH AND 20,316 LITERS IN JULY

(WHEN LESS MUNICIPAL POWER WAS AVAILABLE).

5. SINCE RATIONING HAS BEEN IN EFFECT HERE SINCE APRIL DUE TO LOCAL SHORTAGES, OUR NEW LIMITATIONS ON GASOLINE ISSUES ACTUALLY RESULT IN A 24 PERCENT REDUCTION FROM AVERAGE OVERALL GASOLINE CONSUMPTION PRIOR TO APRIL 1. (WE CONSUMED 75,824 LITERS MARCH AND THE MONTHLY RATE OF CONSUMPTION IS NOW 57,700 LITERS.)

6. IF NECESSARY THE AMOUNT OF GASOLINE FOR OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE VEHICLES CAN BE REDUCED FURTHER BY SIMPLY DECREASING THE NUMBER OF COUPONS ISSUED FOR THE NEXT PERIOD, I.E., 12/22/73 - 1/21/74, AND BY PLACING A LOWER LIMIT ON GASOLINE FOR GENERATORS IN LIVING QUARTERS. UNLESS THE SITUATION GETS EXTREMELY SERIOUS, SOME GASOLINE ISSUES TO PRIVATE VEHICLES WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE, BECAUSE OUR MOTOR POOL IS NOT CAPABLE OF MEETING ALL OFFICIAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS.

7. DIESEL OPERATED GENERATORS ARE USED IN THE CHANCERY COMPOUND AND TO FURNISH EMERGENCY POWER TO 18 OF OUR RESIDENCES. OWING TO THE INSTALLATION OF SEVERAL NEW AID-PROVIDED GENERATORS THE MUNICIPALITY HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE POWER TO THE CHANCERY MOST OF THE TIME IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, SO THAT THE CONSUMPTION OF DIESEL HAS BEEN DOWN TO AN AVERAGE OF 13,000 LITERS PER MONTH. THERE IS NO PLAN TO RATION DIESEL AT THIS TIME.

8. AT THE PRESENT TIME WE HAVE 80,000 LITERS OF GASOLINE AND 55,000 LITERS OF DIESEL IN TANKS AT THE EMBASSY COMPOUND AND THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. WE HAVE ROUGHLY CALCULATED THESE TOTALS AS REPRESENTING A 41.6 DAY SUPPLY OF GASOLINE AND A 125.6 DAY SUPPLY OF DIESEL BASED ON CURRENT USAGE. HOWEVER, IN THE WORST OF SITUATIONS (E.G. NO MUNICIPAL POWER AVAILABLE), THESE STOCKS MIGHT COVER ONLY 22.8 DAYS FOR GASOLINE AND 9.3 DAYS FOR DIESEL (THESE TWO ESTIMATES ASSUME THAT SEVERE RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE PLACED ON THE USE OF CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE GENERATORS AND SHUTDOWN OF GASOLINE SALES FOR PRIVATE VEHICLES).

9. IN ORDER TO ADD TO OUR GASOLINE RESERVES, WE TOOK
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THE PRECAUTION SEVERAL MONTHS AGO OF ASKING ESSO, THROUGH THE GKR MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND TELEKHMER TO SET ASIDE IN THEIR STORAGE TANKS A RESERVE OF 100,000 LITERS. THEY COMPLIED WITH OUR REQUEST, AND THEY ARE IN THE COURSE OF CONFIRMING AGAIN WITH TELEKHMER THE NECESSITY FOR CONTINUING TO EARMARK THIS RESERVE FOR OUR USE. THIS RESERVE IS IN ADDITION TO ESSO'S DELIVERIES OF GASOLINE TO US ON A PERIODIC BASIS TO COVER CURRENT CONSUMPTION

REQUIREMENTS. WE ARE SEEKING WAYS TO ESTABLISH A DIESEL RESERVE.

10. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE DESCRIBED CONSERVATION MEASURES, WE HAVE INSTRUCTED ALL OF OUR PERSONNEL TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRIC POWER DRASTICALLY IN THE OFFICE AND IN RESIDENCES (E.G. DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE DRY SEASON, AIR CONDITIONERS, IF NEEDED AT ALL, ARE TO BE TURNED TO "FAN" RATHER THAN TO "COOK").
ENDERS

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